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Preface

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The 22nd European Conference on Few-Body Problems in Physics was held in Cracow, Poland. The conference was organized by the Institute of Physics of the Jagiellonian University and took place between 9–13 September 2013 at the Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University, located in the vicinity of Cracow's historic centre. This conference belonged to the series of European Few-Body Conferences held previously in: Salamanca (2010), Pisa (2007), Groningen (2004), Bled (2002), Evora (2002), Grenoble (1997), …, Graz (1973) and Budapest (1972).

The few-body physics group in Cracow had been waiting for a long time to host members of few-body physics community and was very happy to host distinguished scientists from the field of particle, nuclear, molecular, atomic, and mathematical physics. Few-body physics in Cracow was founded long time ago. The courage and persistence of two scientists, Adam Strzałkowski and Lucjan Jarczyk, (now professors emeriti) in the hard communist times opened possibilities for international collaboration with universities and research centers in Germany, Switzerland and other countries. They were later joined by younger researchers, Kazimierz Bodek, Henryk Witała and others. Especially the collaboration with professor Walter Glöckle from the Ruhr-Universität Bochum and professor Jürg Lang from ETH Zürich put Cracow physicists in the very centre of few-body physics activities.

The Cracow conference brought together about 150 scientists from all over the world. Plenary sessions were held every day, from Monday till Friday. Parallel sessions took place in the afternoon on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Additionally, one poster session was arranged on Thursday. The speakers of the plenary sessions were invited by the Local Organizing Committee who followed closely the suggestions from the International Advisory Committee. The other oral presentations were selected by the Local Organizing Committee after a careful consideration of all submitted abstracts. The abstracts that did not enter any parallel session were shifted to the poster session, whereas a few abstracts were sent intentionally as poster presentations. Altogether, during the conference 23 plenary talks and 90 oral presentations were given. During the poster session 18 posters were presented.

The conference covered a wide variety of problems, including:

- nuclear forces and few-nucleon systems,
- light nuclei and electroweak probes,
- few-hadron systems (including quark models),
- hypernuclei, strange and exotic systems,
- relativistic description of few-body systems,
- Effective Field Theory applied to few-hadron dynamics,
- nuclear structure, clusters and halos,
- atoms, molecules and condensates.

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We believe that the presentations and discussions at the conference were very interesting and enjoyable. In particular we would like to mention the panel discussion on the future of few-body physics. The discussion was led by Ben Bakker and the other distinguished panel members were Charlotte Elster, Jaume Carbonell, Evgeny Epelbaum, Nasser Kalantar-Nayestanaki, and Jean-Marc Richard. We are sure that all the participants enjoyed the panelists' presentations and the vivid reactions from the audience.

For the first time during the Conference the Few-Body System Award was granted to two young scientists, a theoretician and an experimentalist, in recognition of their distinguished scientific achievements. The award was sponsored by the Few-Body Systems journal, published by Springer-Verlag. The 2013 Laureates were Matthias Schindler (theory) and Izabela Ciepał (experiment). We do hope that this award will become a tradition for next European Conferences.

Apart from the purely scientific program, a few social events were arranged during the conference. A welcome reception took place at the Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University on Sunday afternoon. An excursion to the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine, one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, was organized on Wednesday. The participants were invited to the Wawel Hill for the conference dinner on Thursday evening. On Friday afternoon, our guests had the possibility to visit Collegium Maius, which houses the Jagiellonian University museum.

If the Cracow conference can be considered a success, this is not only ours claim to fame. We would like to thank the International Advisory Committee Members for their help in choosing the best possible presentations. With their help we had been able to setup a very interesting program, covering many aspects of few-body physics. But even the best program means nothing without the proper attitude of the participants. We would like to thank all the speakers and participants for their contributions to the conference. We could feel that we belong to one few-body community and (as it was formulated during the panel discussion) represent a specific "culture".

We are grateful to our sponsors and supporters who contributed to the technical side of the meeting. We acknowledge the great help from our Alma Mater, the Jagiellonian University, which provided the venue and necessary technical assistance. The conference was generously supported by the Jefferson Laboratory, the Springer-Verlag, the European Physical Journal, Nowoczesna Elektronika, the city of Cracow, the KNOW (Leading National Research Centre) project and the Lufthansa Airlines.

Special thanks go to our colleagues from the Local Organizing Committee, Izabela Ciepał, Damian Gil, Teresa Gucwa-Ryś, Ghanshyam Khatri, Barbara Kozak, Wiktor Parol, Kacper Topolnicki, and Agnieszka Wach for their professional skills and enthusiasm.

Last but not least we would like to thank Małgorzata Skibińska, who invented the conference logo. It brings together two elements. One is an old legend about a dragon that used to live in a den on what we call now "Wawel Hill" and now is Cracow's favorite mascot. The second element, dragon's headwear with peacock's feathers is borrowed from the traditional folk costume worn by men in our region. We do hope this logo will remain in you memory as a memento of visiting Cracow.